GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Price Rise of Fruits and Vegetables
Rathore Shri Hariom Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the prices of fruits and vegetables being sold in the mandis of the cities increase manifold when they reach retail markets;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve this problem;

(c) whether the Government is considering to cap the indiscriminate margin on fruits and vegetables and fix their maximum selling margin; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

â€¡Ã£Ã°Å Ã£Ã¤Ã“Ã£ ??? ????? ?????? Â½Ã£Ã¢Â¨Ã£Ã£ÃŠÃ£Â¾Ã£ Â½Ã£Ã±Ã¢ Ã€Ã£â€¢Â¾Ã£ Â½Ã£Ã¢Â¨Ã£Ã£Ã¨ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): The prices of fruits and vegetables increase from mandis to retail markets due to various factors such as transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/sorting, wholesaler's margin, wastages during movement/waiting, location of retail shops, fixed overhead expenses of retailers and margin of retailers etc.

(b): Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016 with the objective to reduce the price gap, induce competition and transparency in sale transactions.

Besides, to address the price rise of essential food items Government has taken measures like allowing imports of onions at zero duty, using Minimum Export Prices on some food items as and when required, Government has also set up a Group of Offices involving enforcement agencies for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, etc.

Government has also set up Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme to tackle inflationary trends of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses through market intervention to protect the interests of consumers. Such market intervention initiatives by Government would not only help send the appropriate market signal but also deter speculative/hoarding activities.

(c) & (d): Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 State Governments are empowered to control the prices at which any essential commodity may be bought or sold.

*****